

CLAIMS

1. Ceramic plates for side dams of twin-drum continuous strip casters; comprising a REAG phase of 10 to 90 vol.%, a Sialon phase of 5 to 50 vol.% and a BN phase of 5 to 50 vol.%.

2. Ceramic plates for side dams of twin-drum continuous strip casters; comprising a REAG phase of 10 to 90 vol.%, a Sialon phase of 5 to 50 vol.%, a BN phase of 5 to 50 vol.% and an amorphous phase of more than 0 to not greater than 20 vol.%.

3. Ceramic plates for side dams of twin-drum continuous strip casters according to claim 1 or 2, in which said REAG phase comprises at least one rare-earth aluminum garnet phase selected from YAG, ErAG, YbAG and DyAG phases.

4. Ceramic plates for side dams of twin-drum continuous strip casters according to any of claims 1 to 3, in which the value of Z, in the chemical formula  $Si_z Al_{1-z} O_{1.5} N_{0.5}$ , of said Sialon phase, is between 0.05 and 1.9.

5. Ceramic plates for side dams of twin-drum continuous strip casters according to any of claims 1 to 4, in which said ceramic plates have a relative density of not less than 80 %.